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## INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Cooperative Union of Plovdiv

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1. The Cooperative Union of Plovdiv, covering the entire Plovdiv region, is an organization uniting the various state-owned cooperatives. The building housing the Union headquarters is on Rajko Daskalov Street, phone 42-49, 33-29 and 38-39. The Agricultural Section, by far the largest, consists of two divisions: the production and sales division, which guides members as to what to plant or manufacture and then sells the commodity; and the transport division which transports the raw materials, produce and finished products.
2. The Cooperative Union unites and controls 95 separate Agricultural Cooperatives with 22,000 members; 22 Artisan Cooperatives with 1,200 members; 2 Tool Cooperatives with 26,000 members; and the kolkhozes with 4,860 members.
3. Although the majority of farmers and artisans are dissatisfied with the Union, which buys their produce and home-manufactured articles at arbitrary prices, the Tool Cooperative is the controlling factor. All new farm machinery and tools, either of Bulgarian manufacture or imported, are turned over to the Tool Cooperative which is permitted to distribute them only to members, thereby making membership in the organization virtually obligatory.

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